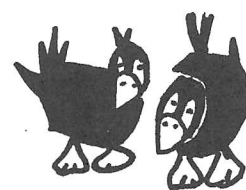


JUNE/JULY 2010

ISSUE 142



# WOT!

## About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP



### St George's Day Service

On Sunday 25th April all sections of the 1st Ratby Scout group attended a service to mark St George's Day. It was a great turn out with the young people and their families filling the church pews.

The service was conducted by Rev Peter Hooper, who welcomed the group. The Group flags were paraded into church then laid over the high altar during the service. This was the first time the Beaver section held a flag and Rev Peter conducted a flag dedication & blessing ceremony during the service.

All the sections of the 1st Ratby Scout group enjoyed the morning service which provided the group with an opportunity to display their presence in the community and their long standing relations with Ratby Parish Church. Hopefully this will become a regular event in both the Church and Scout Group calendar.

**Clive, Beaver Section Leader**



### IDA MARY BARNETT (nee CRAGG) HER MEMORIES of RATBY

My Grandmother Ida Mary Barnett (nee Cragg) was born in 1890 daughter of William Taylor Cragg and Eva Constance Cragg. She married my Grandfather Robert Barnett in 1914 and lived all of her married life in Laburnum Cottages 3, Station Road Ratby. The house numbering system changed in the 1960's and the house now is number 189, Station Road. She died in 1963 and notes were found in her Bible after her death. I believe these were written a little over 100 years ago.

#### A transcript of the notes:

I can remember from my early days of 6 year old

I can remember two large bells being put in Ratby church

I also remember the Bor (Boer) war and two Ratby men that fought in that war, also the opening of the men's adult school and the hymn they sang at the opening, What a friend we have in Jesus,

I remember the first wireless being used in the midlands, at one time I remember dancing being held in Edmond Richards field below the station which was conducted by the Ratby string band.

I was born in Yew Trees yard, the oldest house I can remember was called Bumble Bee Hall,

I remember Queen Victoria's jubilee, also Sammy Holt the town cry and second hand dealer



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## IDA BARNETT'S STORY continued from page 1

George Parker was killed in Ratby quarry, at his funeral service they sang, Praise to the Holiest in the Highest, also trams were drawn by horses in the city of Leicester,

There was what was called a Penfold in the centre of Ratby village, Behind the Plow Inn was once a little village called Ratae also an old Roman encampment near Holywell farm,

There is the woods called Burrows which is supposed to be a burying ground of the Romans,

Some years ago living at the old Hays Farm was a gentleman, when he died he left a will to the widows and widowers of Ratby village, you will find his monument in Ratby church chancel.

I remember old Bessy Ball living in a little cottage opposite Box Tree farm in the centre of the village, pig killing was a usual thing, in open back yards in bygone days, washing pots were used in those days instead of coppers

When I was young I joined the Band of Hope Temperance Society, which we had what was called an annual outing to Bradgate Park, drove by horses and carts, I also took my concertina which I played before the audience in the ruins of Bradgate Park,

I also remember the hymn they sang at the opening of Ratby Chapel on Gordons Bank and so on. John Neal was the first to be married in that Chapel.



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I went to see the Prince of Wales ride through Bradgate Park on a white horse when I was very young, the Band played Kindly Light King George V

I remember the Coalville pit disaster which many went from Ratby and the opening of the Desford convalescent Home called Mop Hall,

My mother used to take me and my sister to church on Xmas morn, in Ratby church yard there lies one of every nation Indian, Welsh, Irish Scotch.

Walter Cragg was the first I saw on a Penny Farthing Cycle.

(Doug Barnett)

These are fascinating glimpses of life at the turn of the century. Perhaps other villagers can add more detail to Ida's collections? **Editor**



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## RECIPE

### CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

#### Ingredients

50g 92 oz) butter  
2 tablespoons icing sugar  
5/6 trifle sponge cakes  
75g (3 oz) plain chocolate bar  
1 tablespoon of rum for flavour if desired.  
To coat, choose from: chocolate vermicelli, coarsely grated chocolate, or crumbled chocolate flake.

1. Cream butter and icing sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Crumble trifle sponges and beat into butter mixture
3. Melt broken-up chocolate in a Pyrex bowl over a saucepan of hot water or in the microwave for 10 seconds at a time, beating in between.
4. Swirl cake mix into the chocolate, blending well. Add rum at this stage.
5. Form mixture into small balls, toss in chosen coating, and place in paper cases.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Somewhere recently I read that the Ratby Conservation Area is in danger of losing its status, because, it was alleged, it is not looked after well enough.

This I find surprising because several organisations are active in working towards the enhancement of the local environment, led by the Parish Council.

The Village Society Anti-litter campaign has an enthusiastic squad of volunteers continually active in removing unsightly litter from the streets.

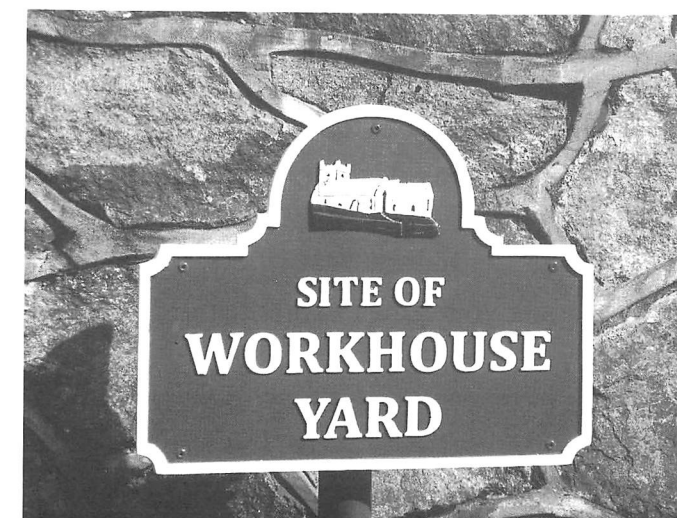
The Local History Group also does its part, having recently located and collated for future publication the history of several squares and yards where once cottages huddled together. They have arranged with the Borough Council for them to mark these seven sites with attractive plaques fixed to walls. When walking around the village some, (like one in Main Street shown in the photograph), are more easy to spot than others!

Yours faithfully,

**Horace (Hoz) Gamble.**

**Address supplied.**

The status is primarily threatened, we understand, by an increase in unsightly signage and street clutter, as well as replacement of traditional features on property with modern alternatives, such as UPVC windows, which detract from the historic appearance. The issue of signage and street clutter is an issue for debate. In August we hope to feature more on this, so villagers please send in views. **Editor**





## RATBY METHODIST CHURCH

Our final event for this year's charity, the **Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance**, is on

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**  
**Afternoon Tea at the Ratby Ritz**  
**at 3.00 pm**

This event speaks for itself. If you have not been before, do make a date in your diary and spoil yourself. A warm welcome, a relaxed atmosphere, musical interludes and afternoon tea served in style assure you of a most enjoyable time you will wish to repeat.



Tickets at £5 are available from Joy Parker, tel: **0116 2874042**.

Do book early to avoid disappointment.

Thank you to those who have supported our events for charity over the last few years. Next year's charity (from September 2010) will be **ABF The Soldiers' Charity** (formerly the Army Benevolent Fund). We look forward to you sharing in our future events too.

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## RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY DATES for your DIARY

We welcome everyone to join us in the Village Hall, Main Street, at 8pm for the following meetings:

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June**- TV Producer and Director, David Lloyd talks about his fascinating career amongst the stars, including Catherine Zeta-Jones, Harry Secombe, Rolf Harris, Timothy West and many more.

No Meeting in July.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August**- If you are caring for a family member who experiences health problems, then this is the talk for you. Pamela Thompson is a mine of information on the range of benefits available to help you, and her talk, entitled 'Caring with Confidence,' will assist you to do just that.



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## DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THE THIEVES

Well I am glad to say the weather has finally taken a turn for the better and I am sure lots of you have taken the opportunity to get out and enjoy your gardens. I would like to remind you all to make sure that you lock away all your garden tools and bikes after you have finished with them, they are a popular target for criminals at this time of year.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti Social behaviour remains a key target for the beat team and extra high visibility patrols have taken place as part of Operation Varix. These are extra patrols in addition to those already carried out by your local officers. Youths who have been found to be causing problems in the villages have been placed on anti-social behaviour contracts and have been made to put right any damage caused. It is our intention to get across the message to those that wish to cause problems in the village that it will not be tolerated.

Please be vigilant, look out for your neighbour and if you think something isn't right- report it!

If you have any concerns that you would like to make us aware of please contact either myself **PCSO 6128 Russ Leech** or **PC 0334 Justin Hayes** on **0116 222 2222 Ext 5675**. We will be glad to try and help you. It is important you tell us about problems in the village in order for us to be able to take positive action and make sure that Ratby remains the wonderful village that it is.

Leicestershire Constabulary is keen to hear your views about policing in your area. Please take a moment to visit [www.leics.police.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.leics.police.uk/haveyoursay) and complete our on-line survey.

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## RATBY VILLAGE FETE 19<sup>th</sup> June

The annual fete organised by the Parish Church takes place this year at the Church rooms and gardens, the Church building and the surrounding grounds. Not only has the venue changed but there will be lots of new activities. This year if you would like to help raise funds to support the Church and its work you can take part in an Abseil down the Church Tower. To get a sponsor form please contact **Joan Hawkins Tel: 2393130**. You will be able to try your hand at archery as well as enjoying a lovely cup of tea and delicious cakes. There are lots of stalls and games for all the family. For the children we have a bouncy castle and a special feature this year will be the opportunity for the little ones to bring their favourite teddy bear and watch it descend from the Church Tower on a Zip Wire. We have lots of entertainment for you to enjoy including our own Ratby Band, and the 2B dancers. We look forward to another fun packed day.

## DATES FOR YOU DIARY Events at the METHODIST CHURCH

**July 24th** As well as our usual coffee morning there will be a jumble sale in aid of Breast Cancer.  
**August 7th** Epworth Methodist Church will be using our premises for their coffee morning as a fund raiser for their church which is closed for renovations. Also on that morning starting at 11am we will be auctioning a train made for our last years charity the Smile Train, proceeds, of course going towards the Smile Train Charity. It is hand made with the tender being a money box.

### RATBY CO-OPERATIVE BRASS BAND

**New Year Concert.** The concert was postponed in January due to bad weather. Come and join us at 7.30 on June 12<sup>th</sup> in Ratby Parish Church.

**Summer Proms Spectacular** to be held at 2.00pm on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen.

## VOTER APATHY

### The result of a bad education?

Polls suggested that 22% of students would not vote on May 6<sup>th</sup>. I strongly believe that this is not because they are uninterested, or because they don't believe their vote will count, but because there is a lack of political education in schools, which has left this generation of first time voters without the necessary knowledge of political parties, candidates, and the voting system. In the school curriculum for students in year 7-year 11, PHSE and Citizenship are mandatory subjects in which students learn about personal, health and social issues that will affect them in the future. Main topics included sex education, drug and drink awareness, smoking, healthy eating and physical hygiene. The lessons were repetitive, dry, and often presented pupils with information we were already aware of. Throughout my experience in these subjects which are intended to increase awareness of the outside world, I only ever recall one occasion where we studied politics. I have had a strong interest in politics from around age 15, and felt perhaps that lessons would become more interesting for me and other pupils if we could study a subject a number of us felt passionate about. The lessons became more tedious than ever. On more than one occasion the class watched the same video describing the 'first past the post system.' My enthusiasm was henceforth diminished, and many of my peers decided politics was boring and a waste of time.

It is this stereotype of politics, I feel, that has persuaded many young people not to register for this election. Instead of teaching 15 year olds 'the five main food groups' or having them create presentations on the dangers of smoking, why not educate them in politics? We should be inspiring students to be involved, to learn about the different parties and what they stand for, not running a video and leaving students to get on with it.

We need to increase political awareness in schools. We need to be proud of the rights we have, and the democracy we live in. Don't let our ancestors have fought for nothing. Educate young people in politics, and perhaps by the time the next election comes everyone will vote.

**Rebecca Harrison**

This should start an interesting debate! Are there teachers out there and other students with views? Is it just up to schools, or should parents play a part? Should 16 year olds be given a vote? Have the televised debates made a difference? We would welcome more views on this!! The turnout in Bosworth Constituency was 70.7%  
**Editor.**

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**August/September 2010**

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